



## *Elvis Dead at 42*

Elvis Presley, 42, died Tuesday in Memphis, Tenn., of respiratory failure at Baptist Hospital. Presley is shown during performance in Lincoln, Neb., earlier this year (UPI).

### *Refunds On Tickets*

Ticket refunds for the canceled Sunday concert of Elvis Presley at the Hartford Civic Center will be made at the place of purchase, a civic center spokesman said Tuesday after the singer's death.

Refunds can be obtained beginning at 10 a.m. today at the civic center, Civic Center Director Frank E. Russo Jr. said.

He said persons who bought tickets through Ticketron outlets should go to them for refunds.

### *'The Big El' To Carry On Vocal Style*

Larry Seth, the Memphis-born singer who calls himself "The Big El" and does an act impersonating Elvis Presley, vowed Tuesday to "dedicate the rest of his life to Elvis Presley," his manager said.

Seth's manager, Robert Russin, said the singer was "heartbroken, very broken up" when he heard that Presley had died. "Larry will do his Elvis act as long as people will have him," Russin said.

"The Big El" performed last weekend at Hartford's Marc Antony's Cafe. He is advertised as being "more like Elvis than Elvis."

"He's taking this real hard," Russin said, "but he'll keep on."

## *'Down Home' Humility*



# In Hot Pursuit Of Scientology

*James J. Kilpatrick—*



Washington — A small army of FBI agents played another game of gang-busters last month with the Church of Scientology. By apparent actual count, 134 agents burst into three church offices in Washington and California. They hauled away tons of stuff. Now church leaders are fighting back.

Speaking simply as a taxpayer, I would say hurray for these scrappy reverends. They have sued the FBI, and they have just published a large book of documents having to do with the government's long campaign of harassment against them. Church lawyers pried the documents loose from a reluctant government by means of the Freedom of Information Act. The FOIA seldom has been put to more revealing use.

If the Scientologists' story were not

In 1959, the Food and Drug Administration began an attack that would go on for years. Why the FDA, you may ask? A fair question. The Scientologists use a simple skin galvanometer, which they call an E-meter, as an aid in their metaphysical healing programs. The FDA said the E-meter was a quack medical device, hence unlawful. So agents of the FDA, disguised as prospective members began infiltrating and snooping and detecting and writing long single-spaced reports.

In 1960, the United States Army moved up some troops. The Scientologists' book includes a photostat of one Army Intelligence report. If that report is a fair sample of the intelligence of Army Intelligence, God help the American Republic.

In 1961, the Air Force renewed its attack. In 1962, the FDA and the Bureau of Customs gave the church a hard time. In January of 1963, two vans, escorted by motorcycle police, rolled up to church headquarters in Washington. Government agents hauled away three tons of material, including 10,000 books, 20,000 pamphlets, and 15 of the devilish E-meters. It took ten years of costly litigation before the courts held the raid an unconditional abuse of power.

In 1967, the Labor Department harassed the church by denying work permits to visiting ministers from abroad. The CIA checked in. The Post brought up its legions of postal inspectors, sniffing for mail fraud. The FBI kept surveilling away. The Immigration and Naturalization Service joined the fun. So, too, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the National Security Agency. They must have fallen over each other.

Finally the government, having lost every turn, threw the Internal Revenue Service into the breach. The IRS ordered whole pages of instruction from its agents' manual, dealing with mail audits and investigations. The IRS now has 33 lineal feet of files on the subject, and all the government has to its trouble is a series of court rulings to the effect that Scientology is not a church as a matter of law.

Who's crazy? I ask you seriously, who's nuts? These meter-reading reverends? Or the government's agents who trample the First Amendment under foot?



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